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Identical letters dated 21 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 20 September 2000 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing wanton aggression against Iraq by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 1 to 8 September 2000 they carried out 278 sorties, 174 of them from Saudi Arabia, 88 from Kuwait and 16 from Turkey.

The Minister urges the Security Council to meet its responsibilities with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security by intervening with the governments of the United States and the United Kingdom and with the countries participating in this aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, with a view to inducing them to halt, end and desist from any resumption of their constant and unwarranted aggression against Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 21 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They carried out 278 sorties in the period from 1 to 8 September 2000, 174 of them from Saudi Arabia, 88 from Kuwait and 16 from Turkey, as shown hereunder.

1. In the northern region 16 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

At 1110 hours on 1 September 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Mosul, Aqrah, Tall Afar and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1350 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 262 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1055 hours on 1 September 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 16 missions, 10 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and six from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Amarah, Ashbajah, Shinafiyah, Najaf, Samawah, Nasiriyah and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1255 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1600 hours on 2 September 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 24 missions, 14 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Salman, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Hayy, Busayyah, Ashbajah, Shinafiyah, Qal'at Sukkar, Rifa'i, Lasaf, Shatrah and Taqtaqanah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1730 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1505 hours on 4 September 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 22 missions, 12 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Artawi, Basrah, Samawah, Jalibah and Salman areas.

Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2350 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 0815 hours on 5 September 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 44 missions, 28 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 16 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Basrah, Lasaf, Shinafiyah South, Taqtaqanah, Salman, Jalibah and Artawi areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1935 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1305 hours on 6 September 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 40 missions, 30 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Samawah, Ashbajah, Salman, Najaf, Rifa'i, Shinafiyah, Lasaf, Diwaniyah, Qal'at Sukkar, Artawi and Nukhayb East areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1710 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 0748 hours on 7 September 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 50 missions, 34 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 16 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Salman, Samawah, Afak, Qurnah, Basrah, Jalibah and Amarah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1415 hours, drove them off.

(g) At 0725 hours on 8 September 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 66 missions, 46 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 20 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Lasaf, Qurnah, Shinafiyah, Qal'at Sukkar, Mishkhab, Diwaniyah, Shatrah, Taqtaqanah, Ashbajah, Qal'at Salih, Amarah, Nukhayb, Najaf, Nu'maniyah, Hayy, Afak, Ukhaydir and Karbala' South areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1340 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom towards Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials seeking to defend the measures being taken to enforce the no-flight zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these countries in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility for actions that are deleterious to the people of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq, condemning these acts of aggression against civilian targets and Iraqi civilian installations, urges the Security Council to perform its assigned duties with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security by intervening with the governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to halt, end and desist from any resumption of their constant and unwarranted aggression against an independent, sovereign State.

(*Signed*) Tariq **Aziz**
Deputy Prime Minister
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs